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Attorneys for  
The Roman Catholic Bishop of Santa Rosa

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
SANTA ROSA DIVISION**

In re:

Case No. 23-10113

## THE ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF SANTA ROSA,

Chapter 11

## Debtors In Possession.

Date: November 17, 2023  
Time: 11:00 a.m.  
Location: 1300 Clay Street, Ctrm. 215  
Oakland, CA 94612  
[In person or via Zoom]  
Judge: Hon. Charles Novack

**DECLARATION OF JANET RUBIN FIELDS IN SUPPORT OF DEBTOR'S MOTION  
FOR ENTRY OF AN ORDER REFERRING PARTIES TO GLOBAL MEDIATION,  
APPOINTING MEDIATOR AND GRANTING RELATED RELIEF**

I, Janet Rubin Fields, hereby declare and state as follows:

1. I am an attorney, duly admitted in the State of California. I am presently a full-time mediator for 23 years with Judicate West, and have a specialization in sexual abuse claims mediation. I submit this declaration in support of the *Motion for Entry of an Order Referring Parties to Global Mediation, Appointing Mediator and Granting Related Relief* (the “Motion”). Capitalized terms used but not defined herein shall have the meanings and definitions ascribed to them in the Motion.

1           2. I am informed that I have been proposed by insurers in the case, and that the Debtor  
2 has agreed, after consultation with the Committee and other parties, to seek my engagement as a  
3 mediator in the above-captioned case.

4           3. I have extensive experience in conducting mediations, having mediated and resolved  
5 over 6000 cases with an emphasis on sexual abuse claims litigation in the last several years.  
6 Attached hereto as **Exhibit 1** is a copy of my Curriculum vitae.

7           4. I have made the following investigation of disinterestedness and connections prior  
8 to submitting this Declaration: In connection with my proposed retention as Mediator, I was  
9 provided a Schedule of Interested Parties, a copy of which is attached hereto as **Exhibit 2**. I  
10 reviewed the Schedule of Interested Parties and concluded that I do not have any conflicts with any  
11 of the entities or individuals listed therein. I am not mediating claims against other dioceses and  
12 have not been hired as a claims reviewer for any plaintiff firms in group settlements or for any  
13 trusts.

14           5. Certain counsel representing Tort Claimants in this case have also represented  
15 Plaintiffs in other unrelated abuse and other subject matter cases which I was involved as a  
16 Mediator. Certain counsel representing insurance companies in this case have also represented the  
17 insurance companies in other unrelated abuse and other subject matter cases in which I was  
18 involved as the Mediator.

19           6. I lived in Sonoma County, attended Sonoma State from 1974-1978, Empire College  
20 of Law through 1984 during which time I worked as a legal secretary for Sonoma County lawyers  
21 none of which are listed on the Schedule of Interested Parties.

22           7. To the best of my knowledge and information available, I have no connection with  
23 the Debtor or any other party in interest in these Cases. Certain counsel representing Tort Claimants  
24 in this case have also represented plaintiffs in other cases which I was involved as a Mediator.

25           8. To the best of my knowledge, I do not represent any interest adverse to the Debtor  
26 or any party in interest in the matters upon which I am to be engaged.

27           9. I am not affiliated nor have any connection with the Office of the United States  
28 Trustee or any of its employees.

10. I have not received any transfer, assignment or pledge of property of the Debtor's estate or any of the Tort Claimants as of the date of this Declaration.

11. I have not shared or agreed to share with any other person, other than with my mediation company Judicate West, any compensation to be paid with respect to these Cases.

12. The terms agreed to with the Debtor, subject to Court approval, are described below. Certain insurers that will be participating in the mediation have agreed to pay 50% of my monthly compensation in this case. I have agreed, as an accommodation, to use my 2023 compensation rates for this mediation process notwithstanding that my 2024 rates are about 19% higher. My hourly rate is \$1,260/hour (2023 rate). There is also a \$375 fee per party.

13. I expect to impose the \$375 “per party” fee for the insurers collectively rather than for each insurer. The compensation terms are that the per party fee applies each time there is a blocked out mediation session, but will not apply to smaller meetings. I will also seek reimbursement of reasonable out of pocket expenses and costs. I understand that all pre-confirmation hourly rates, fees and expenses are subject to approval by the Court.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

Executed on December 5, 2023 at Los Angeles, California.

## Janet Rubin Fields

# **EXHIBIT 1**



# Janet Rubin Fields, Esq.



Results Beyond Dispute<sup>SM</sup>

Since 1999, Janet has mediated and resolved over 6,000 cases. Over the years her practice has evolved to specialize in highly sensitive cases, particularly those involving sexual assault, molestation, and abuse. Her view is that every dispute is different and while the law and the facts may be similar, it's the parties who make each mediation unique. She thoroughly prepares for each case and her enthusiasm and optimism to achieve a resolution are apparent. She is known for her unwavering commitment as she will follow up with the parties for as long as it takes, whether it is weeks, months, or even years later, constantly offering new and creative solutions in order to obtain a settlement. One attorney commented, "Janet recognizes that disputes are about people, and she gets the human element." Another said, "I select Janet on cases that have many different and difficult dynamics. The issues are usually complex with multiple layers of insurance, and many different personalities, and knowing that these cases are hard to settle in one session, I need a mediator who will stick with it. Janet has a proven track record and gets it done!"

## MEDIATION

This neutral is available only for cases involving Mediation

## LEGAL EXPERIENCE

- Neutral, Judicate West (2004-Present)
- Full time Neutral (1999-Present)
- Arbitrator (1999-2008)
- Partner, Fields & Fields, specializing professional liability plaintiff and defense (1993-1999)
- Trial Attorney, specializing plaintiff's personal injury, commercial litigation, professional liability and real estate (1989-1993)

## EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- J.D., Empire College of Law, Santa Rosa (1984)
- B.A., Sonoma State University (1978)
- Pepperdine University, School of Law, Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, "Masters in Mediation"
- International Academy of Mediators, Fellow and Board of Governors
- Los Angeles County Bar Association, Member

## PRACTICE AREAS

Business/Commercial, Employment, Insurance, Professional Malpractice, Real Estate, Tort

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Speaker, "Resolving Cases Virtually: Plaintiff & Defense Perspectives," Webinar (November 2020)
- Recognized each year by Los Angeles Magazine as one of California's "Super Lawyers", in the field of Alternative Dispute Resolution since 2002.
- Selected by the Daily Journal as one of the "Top Neutrals in California" consecutively from 2007-2015.

## INTERESTS

Ms. Rubin Fields relishes family and friend time, enjoys golf, snow skiing, cooking, wine, traveling, and collects salt and pepper shakers.

## LOCATIONS

Los Angeles, All of California

[WWW.JUDICATEWEST.COM](http://WWW.JUDICATEWEST.COM) | 800-488-8805

# **EXHIBIT 2**

## SCHEDULE OF INTERESTED PARTIES

### The Debtor

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Santa Rosa

### Parishes and Missions

Cathedral of St. Eugene

Christ the King Church

Church of the Assumption

Holy Family Church

Holy Spirit Church

Our Lady of Good Counsel Church

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

Our Lady of the Redwoods Church

Our Lady Queen of Peace Church

Resurrection Church

Sacred Heart Church

St. Aloysius Church

St. Anthony Church

St. Anthony of Padua Church

St. Apollinaris Church

St. Bernard Church

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church

St. Elizabeth Church

St. Francis Solano Church

St. Helena Church

St. James Church

St. Joan of Arc Church

St. John the Baptist Church (Healdsburg)

St. John the Baptist Church (Napa)

St. Joseph Church (Cotati)

St. Joseph Church (Crescent City)

St. Joseph Church (Fortuna)

St. Joseph Church (Middletown)

St. Leo the Great Church - Boyes Hot Springs

St. Mary Church

St. Mary Immaculate Church

St. Mary of the Angels Church

St. Peter Church

St. Philip the Apostle Church

St. Rose of Lima Church

St. Sebastian Church

St. Thomas Aquinas Church

St. Vincent de Paul Church

Star of the Valley Church

Blessed Sacrament (Elk)

Holy Family (Rutherford)

Holy Trinity (Trinidad)

Mary, Star of the Sea (Gualala)

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (Asti)

Our Lady Queen of Peace (Covelo)

Our Lady of the Lakes (Loch Lomond)

Our Lady of the Pines (Cobb)

Queen of the Rosary (Lucerne)

St Catherine of Siena (Monte Rio)	<b><u>Leadership and Officers</u></b>
St Colman (Cazadero)	Most Reverend Robert F. Vasa, Bishop and Chief Executive Officer
St Elizabeth Seton (Philo)	Rev. Samuel Moses Brown, Vicar General / Chancellor
St Francis (Hopland)	Rev. Fergal McGuinness, Judicial Vicar
St Joseph (Blue Lake)	Deacon Joe Oberting, Chief Financial Officer
St Joseph (Eureka)	Doug Blum, Controller
St Kateri Tekakwitha (Hoopa)	
St Patrick (Loleta)	
St Patrick (Petrolia)	
St Peter (Kelseyville)	
St Robert & St Ann (Klamath)	
St Teresa of Avila (Bodega)	
Vietnamese Martyrs (Santa Rosa)	

### **Schools**

Archbishop Hanna School for Boys  
 Cardinal Newman High School  
 Justin-Siena High School  
 Kolbe-Trinity School  
 St. Apollinaris School  
 St. Bernard School  
 St. Eugene School  
 St. Francis Solano School  
 St. John the Baptist School (Healdsburg)  
 St. John the Baptist School (Napa)  
 St. Mary of the Angels School  
 St. Rose School  
 St. Vincent de Paul Elementary  
 St. Vincent de Paul High School

### **Banks**

Merrill Lynch  
 PNC Bank  
 Summit State Bank  
 U.S. Bank  
 Wells Fargo Bank

### **Insurers and Brokers**

Catholic Mutual Group  
 Continental Casualty/CNA  
 Employers Reinsurance/Puritan/Swiss Re  
 Fireman's Fund  
 Insurance Company State of Pennsylvania/AIG  
 Interstate Casualty Co./Allianz  
 Lloyd's  
 Northern Insurance Co. of New York/Zurich  
 Pacific Indemnity/Insurance Co. of North America/Chubb  
 Phoenix Assurance Co.  
 The Ordinary Mutual

Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.

**Certain Ordinary Course Professionals**

Boden Klein & Sneesby

Bohbot & Riles, PC

Law Office of Helaine C. Cunanan

Shapiro Galvin Shapiro & Moran

Weinstein & Numbers LLP

Christopher T. Aumais, Attorney at Law

DiMarco Araujo Montevideo

DLA Piper LLP

Dolen, Tucker, Tierney & Abraham

Donahoo & Associates, P.C.

Drivon Law Firm LLP

Edwards & De La Cerda, PLLC

Fiore Achermann

Fiumara Law, P.C.

Foley & Lardner, LLP

Foran Glennon Palandech Ponzi & Rudloff  
PC

Forester Haynie PLLC

Franck & Associates

Furtado, Jaspowice & Simons

Gomez Trial Attorneys

Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP

Greenberg Traurig LLP

Greene & Roberts

Gross & Belsky P.C.

Herman Law

Howie & Smith, LLP

Jackson Lewis P.C.

James, Vernon & Weeks, P.A.

**Counsel to Litigation Parties**

Abbey, Weitzenberg, Warren & Emery

Allen, Glaessner, Hazelwood & Werth, LLP

Andreozzi + Foote

Andrews & Thornton

Arias Sanguinetti Wang & Torrijos LLP

Aylstock, Witkin, Kreis & Overholtz PLLC

Baer Treger LLP

Beck Law P.C.

Bledsoe, Diestel, Treppa & Crane LLP

Bonagofsky & Weiss

Boucher LLP

<sup>1</sup> The names of certain individual plaintiffs are redacted consistent with the Debtor's *Motion for Entry of Interim and Final Orders (I) Authorizing and Approving Special Noticing and Confidentiality Procedures, (II) Authorizing and Approving Procedures for Providing Notice of*

*Commencement, and (III) Granting Related Relief.* The Debtor will provide an unredacted version of this list to the Court, the Office of the United States Trustee, and any official committees appointed in this chapter 11 case upon request.

Jeff Anderson & Associates	Ribera Law Firm
Josephs and Blum	Rice & Bloomfield, LLP
Justice Law Collaborative, LLC	Saunders & Walker, P.A.
Kabateck LLP	Schmidt National Law Group
Kaufman Dolowich Voluck, LLP	Shapiro, Galvin, Shapiro & Moran
Ketterer, Browne & Associates, LLC	Slater Slater Schulman LLP
Krankemann Law Offices P.C.	The Keane Law Firm, P.C.
Kronenberg Law, PC	The Zalkin Law Firm, P.C.
Law Office of Beth C. Hopwood	Thompson Law Offices
Law Office of Davey L. Turner	Van Blois Law
Law Office of Thomas A. Johnson	Walkup Melodia Kelly & Schoenberger
Law Offices of Joseph C. George, Ph.D.	Waters Kraus & Paul
Law Offices of Mark R. Mittelman P.C.	Weinstein & Numbers, LLP
Levin Simes Abrams	Weintraub I Tobin
Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP	Winer, Burritt & Scott, LLP
Liakos Law, APC	Wood, Smith, Henning & Berman LLP
Manly, Stewart & Finaldi	
Mary Alexander & Associates, P.C.	
Matthews & Associates	<b><u>Parties to Contracts with the Debtor</u></b>
McCormick, Barstow, Sheppard, Wayte & Carruth LLP	Accufund Inc.
Neumiller & Beardslee	Archdiocese of Detroit
Nye, Stirling, Hale & Miller, LLP	Archdiocese of San Francisco
Panish Shea Boyle Ravipudi LLP	Bay Alarm
Paul Mones, P.C.	Card Service Center
Pearson Warshaw, LLP	ComputerWorks NFP Solutions
Peiffer Wolf Carr Kane Conway & Wise	Diocesan Fiscal Management Conference
Pfau Cochran Vertetis Amala PLLC	Down To Earth Solutions, LLC
Reich & Binstock, LLP	HealthSCOPE Benefits, Inc.
	Lockton Investment Advisors LC

Mitel Networks Corp.	Mitel
Nicolay Consulting Group	Pacific Gas & Electric
ParishSOFT LLC	Penngrove Water
Pitney Bowes	TPX Communications
Quadient Inc.	
Right Networks	<b><u>Taxing Authorities</u></b>
SofterWare Inc.	California Department of Motor Vehicles
TIAA FSB	California Department of Tax and Fee Administration
TPx Communications	California Employment Development Department
UMR (United HealthCare)	California Franchise Tax Board

#### **Restructuring Professionals**

Donlin, Recano & Company, Inc.	Lake County Tax Collector
Felderstein, Fitzgerald, Willoughby, Pascuzzi & Rios LLP	Sonoma County Tax Collector
GlassRatner Advisory & Capital Group LLC d/b/a B. Riley Advisory Services	

#### **Significant Vendors**

American Solutions for Business	<b><u>Government Agencies</u></b>
Healdsburg Printing	California Secretary of State
J. Warner Enterprises	Sonoma County Clerk-Recorder
U.S. Postal Service	U.S. Department of Homeland Security

#### **Significant Utility Providers**

Allstream	<b><u>Attorneys for the United States Trustee's Office for the Northern District of California, San Francisco Office</u></b>
AT&T Mobility	Christina Goebelsmann
AT&T Teleconference Services	Elvina Rafael
City Of Santa Rosa	Yung Nor Wong
Comcast	

#### **Judges for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California, Santa Rosa Division**

Hon. Roger L. Efremsky
Hon. William Lafferty

Hon. Dennis Montali

Hon. Charles Novack

**Other Religious Entities**

Brother William Farrington

Brothers of the Christian Schools

California Catholic Conference

Capuchin Franciscan Order

Carondelet High School

Catholic Cemeteries

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Santa Rosa

Catholic Community Foundation of Santa Rosa

Catholic University of America

Congregation of Christian Brothers of Hawaii, Inc. dba Damien Memorial School

Doe Religious Order

Franciscan Friars of California, Inc. dba The Province of St. Barbara Franciscans

Hanna Boys Center

Liaison Counsel for Institutional Defendants

Marian Sisters of Santa Rosa

Roman Catholic Welfare Corp. of Santa Rosa

Santa Clara University

Sisters of St. Joseph

Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis

Society of the Divine Word, Western Province

St. Gregory the Great Seminary

St. Patrick Seminary

Stephen Kiesle

The Roman Catholic Archbishop of San Francisco

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Fresno

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Monterey

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Oakland

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Sacramento

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Stockton

The Salesians Society

USA West Province of the Society of Jesus